The first tree infested with Asian longhorned beetle in the City of Rahway was discovered on Tuesday, October 5. Found in an area along the city's border with Carteret Borough, the tree became the 406th determined to be infested with the beetle in the quarantine zone that includes Woodbridge, Carteret, Rahway and Linden.

The City posted a detailed, helpful guide to identifying the beetle and its telltale tree markings, along with instructions on the handling of firewood and scrap wood, on its web site at http://www.cityofrahway.com/pr/pr_8-19-04.htm. The web site directs residents to Comcast Channel 34 in Rahway for further information.

Field surveys continued this week in the four municipalities to determine the extent of the infestation. More than 11,000 host trees have been climbed or examined for signs of the beetle. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and USDA Forest Service used two commercial companies to conduct remote (aerial) imagery flights over a 440 square mile area encompassing the Carteret-Woodbridge Township ALB infestation, the Jersey City ALB infestation and Staten Island, N.Y. The USDA Forest Service also conducted aerial imagery flights of the areas. The color-sensitive infrared images are used to compare areas of known heavy infestation with surrounding areas. Any areas where the colors match those of the heavily infested areas are targeted for greater scrutiny.

Nature's Choice Corp. of Kearny is the new Certified Disposal Site for the ALB quarantine zone. The foresters from PSE&G Co. are under compliance agreement and gave full support to the ALB program.

In public outreach efforts:

On October 2, 2004, NJ Forester, Rosa Yoo provided ALB information at the Fall Forestry Festival in Jackson, N.J.

On September 30, Tom Denholm, Supervisor with NJDA's Division of Plant Industry talked about ALB to members of the Parks Department, Master Gardeners and County Agriculture Agents of Bergen County.

Also on September 30, Barry Emens, New Jersey ALB Director, gave an ALB presentation to the State Cooperators Forest Health Meeting in Atlantic City, N.J.

•